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Applicants : Ernst Meier et al.

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P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In the above-identified application for United States patent, please amend as follows.

Amendments to the specification are reflected in the attached substitute specification with markings and the clean version.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on Page 5 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on Page 6 of this paper.